



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Russia's Sanctions Against Georgia

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Kyle Scott
at the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 19, 2006

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The United States would like to join the European Union in the sentiments we just heard to express our own grave concern about the recent measures adopted by the Russian Federation against Georgia and ethnic Georgian residents of Russia.

The economic, political, and humanitarian consequences of these measures reflect an unjustified response to the tension arising from the recent Georgian actions related to an espionage case.

Based on our monitoring, we believe approximately 400 ethnic Georgians have been deported from Russia, and another 300 face deportation orders.

We urge the Russian Federation to cease maltreatment of its Georgian residents, which can lead to tragedy.

We also call on Russia to restore transportation and financial links it recently cut with Georgia, compounding Russia's earlier bans on imports of Georgian agricultural products, wine, water, as well as Russia's border closure at Verkhniy Lars.

We continue to call on the Governments of Russia and Georgia to take constructive steps to de-escalate tensions and restore a spirit of good-neighborly relations.

Thank you.